

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An assembly (10) for blowing liquids from a vehicle comprising:
 - a plenum (12) for distributing air,
 - 5 at least one nozzle (16, 18) for directing air from said plenum toward a vehicle, and
 - a blower system (40) having an inlet (44) for sucking in air and an outlet (46) for supplying pressurized air to said plenum (12) for distribution to said nozzle (16, 18),
 - 10 said assembly characterized by a valve mechanism (50) disposed over said inlet (44) for controlling the amount of air sucked into said inlet (44).
2. An assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said valve mechanism (50) includes a frame (52) and a valve plate (54) slidably supported by said frame (52) for movement between open and closed positions.
- 15 3. An assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said frame (52) includes at least one rail (56) and said valve plate (54) includes at least one rail (56) coupling (58) for engaging and sliding along said rail (56).
- 20 4. An assembly as set forth in claim 3 wherein said valve mechanism includes an actuator (62) supported by said frame (52) for sliding said valve plate (54) rectilinearly along said rail (56) between said open and closed positions.

5. An assembly as set forth in claim 4 including an inlet collar (64) supported by said frame (52) and adapted for attachment to said inlet (44).

6. An assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said frame (52) defines a
5 rectangle having long sides adjacent the sides of said collar (64) and one short side defining a bottom close adjacent said collar (64) and one short side defining a top spaced from said collar (64).

7. An assembly as set forth in claim 6 wherein said rails (56) extend
10 between said top and bottom of said rectangle defining said frame (52).

8. An assembly as set forth in claim 6 wherein said actuator (62) extends between said top of said rectangle defining said frame (52) and said valve plate (54).

15 9. An assembly as set forth in claim 6 wherein said collar (64) is circular in cross section and extends axially from between said sides of said frame (52).

10. An assembly as set forth in claim 6 including struts (70) extending between said top of said frame (52) and said collar (64).

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11. An assembly as set forth in claim 6 including a panel (66) surrounding said collar (64) and extending to and closing said frame (52).

12. An assembly as set forth in claim 11 including a second panel **(66)**
axially spaced from said first mentioned panel **(66)** for closing said frame **(52)**.